THE EVENING FIRE-SIDE;

OR

Literary Miscellany.

VOL. II.] *PHILADELPHIA, December* 6, 1806. [No. 49.

The price of the Evening Fire-side is three dollars per annum.

For the Evening Fire-side.

THE PHILANTHROPIST: NO. XXVIII.

"They best can judge whose consciences are clear."

If the PHILANTHROPIST has sometimes erred in the choice of means for the promotion of the general good, it does not follow that his motives were unphilanthropic. It is not an indifference to censure, but a willingness to sacrifice *private* feelings in a *public* cause that induces him to give place to the following communication without a comment. P.

To the Philanthropist.

DEAR PHIL,

I am much pleased to find that you continue to justify the opinion I formerly entertained of your philanthropy, by confining your attention to brother man, and either treating woman with silent contempt, or exposing her as an object of ridicule and scorn. Your last Number was a specimen of exquisite art. Had you first accused woman of slander, and from the baseness of the vice argued her depravity, prejudice would have been alarmed, and though it could not but admit the fact, would have denied the inference. But by first treating of slander in the abstract, and then suddenly applying it to woman, your readers were taken by surprize, and before they were aware of the consequences, admitted the whole as truth.

But, my dear fellow, you got a sad rub from JUSTITIA; especially when she says,

Of slander preach'd, and practis'd what he preach'd.

However, let not this discourage you, for while the gaping multitude eagerly grasp at the illusions of error, they are fond of cavilling at those truths which the discerning only know how to duly estimate. I have also had a sharp contest on your account, or rather on account of our principles, of which I will endeavour to give you the history. It was my ill fortune some nights since to fall into company with some females, to one of whom was given the title of the Matron. Her presence at first inspired me with a sort of respect, which was quickly removed by recurring to my principle, and I told her that unless I had been thus armed, I might have fallen into the error of thinking one woman worthy of esteem, which produced the following dialogue.

Matron. Your conduct in this respect reminds me of Dr. Sangrado: when Gil Blas observed to him that experience seemed to prove that his system of warm water and bleeding rather killed than cured, the Doctor observed that he might have been induced to think so too: but he had written a book, and that book he was determined to support. And so you, in spite of reason and conviction, are determined to support an opinion because some pique perhaps induced you once to entertain it.

Misog. Nay, reason is on my side.—Even the *Philanthropist*, who is an extravagant admirer of your sex, fully justifies my aversion, by his delineation of your peculiar characteristic.

Matron. The extravagance of the *Philanthropist* is sufficiently manifest in his essay; but, if admiration can mean any thing like affection, esteem or regard, I cannot conceive how he can feel that sentiment for those whose "*almost peculiar characteristic*" he declares to be opposite to "the principles of good sense, justice, and goodness of heart."

Misog. It is the prejudice of education, no doubt, which attaches him to the sex in spite of his judgment, which in his essays condemns them.

Matron. Rather say that some animosity has made him view our foibles through a magnifying glass. This is rendered more probable from his inconsistency, for it is the general characteristic of anger to be absurd. He says, the fear of exposure, whatever may be its influence in preventing an active declension from virtue, does not correct the *passive* depravity of the mind, and therefore its employment is a deviation from the dictates of good sense. If the inference be not absurd, what shall we say of those wiseacres who have passed restraining laws against immoral practices, since the most beneficent intention of those laws goes no further than to prevent the *active* declension from virtue: And please to tell me what your admired writer means by *passive* depravity? And also how he has learned that the indignation which a person feels on observing incorrect conduct, by which she is not immediately effected, generally proceeds from malice? This is strange language to me, but perhaps you cannot explain it.

Misog. This is merely a criticism upon words; but the fact, madam, is, that you are put down for slander, not only by the *Philanthropist*, but by general observation. Your tea-table chat is celebrated as abounding with slanderous remarks about those of your companions who have unfortunately become the objects of your censure; their characters are torn to pieces, and any little folly one may have been guilty of is enough to render the absent fair-one an object of derision.

Matron. That there are some unworthy characters among us who are fond of detraction, I cannot dispute, but that it is a peculiar characteristic is certainly an unfounded assertion. In proof of this we need only to direct our attention to the conduct of man, of him who thinks to fix on us what character he pleases; may we not say to him, "pull the beam out of thine own eye?" If an awkward dress, ungraceful air, the quarrel of lovers, or an imprudent attachment, are the objects of ridicule or censure, (or slander, if you please) with our youthful females, it may be wrong; but certainly does not imply the want of every amiable quality of the heart, as the *Philanthropist* would insinuate. But look at the slander of proud boastful man, who claims to himself the *prerogative* of candour. Look

at the newſpapers from one end of the continent to the other—are they not filled with invectives againſt men whoſe only fault perhaps is an oppoſition of political principles? Do not the adherents of each party blacken the reputation of their opponents by the inſinuation of almoſt every crime—becauſe they happen to differ in ſentiment from themſelves? If a man has a law-ſuit againſt another, does he not attempt to caſt a ſhade over the bright fame of his adverſary? And many a youth has juſtly incurred cenſure for attempting to calumniate his more ſucceſsful rival in the eſteem of the maidens. When I think of theſe things I feel indignation [but not *malice*] at the injuſtice of thoſe that aſcribe to us ſlander as a peculiar characteriſtic. Men are not, however, univerſally unjuſt. A gentleman who was introduced to our circle a few evenings ſince, gave us a different character. He was of the ſociety of Friends, and too old to flatter. He obſerved that he had been for a courſe of years much converſant with people of all deſcriptions, both in this city and in New-York, and it was his opinion, that if pure morality and ſincere chriſtianity were to be met with in either place, it chiefly reſided among the females; and that among the youthful of the preſent day, the characters of the young women were by far the moſt eſtimable.

Here the breaking up of the company put an end to the diſcourſe; and I muſt acknowledge, the old lady has almoſt perſuaded me to reſign the character of a

MISOGYNIST.

For the Evening Fire-side.

A PROSPECT OF FAMINE.

What's the news? is a queſtion I frequently hear—
Bad, news gentle readers, too ſhocking to bear!
We are now, it is certain, with ſcarcity curſt,
There's a proſpect of famine—of evils the worſt.
We've not had a dainty for months that are paſt,
And but little ſubſtantial—'twill ſoon be a faſt.
You all know that faſting is penance at beſt,
A thing to be dreaded—and what *I* deteſt.
This calamitous caſe, for our good may be meant;
But it's lengthen'd my face to a doleful extent.
As mental ſtarvation, there's nothing ſo bad;
The prowlers for knowledge I fear will *go mad*.
Who contributed moſt to our weekly repaſt,
It ſeems have deſerted from greateſt to leaſt.

There's *ſlumbering Simon* deſerves a reproof;
He exceeds moderation—ſleeps more than enough:
His *relations*, however, I'm happy to find,
A variety furniſh'd, each beſt of its kind;
Nature, ſeem'd to have taught them to cook and to carve,
With them in our ſervice, we never ſhould ſtarve.
There's *Simon the cobler*, whoſe fault I muſt tell;
He was *Slow* to be ſure, but he did his work well.
There's *Simon the peaceful*, whoſe *name* will ſuffice;
And *Jonty Plumbpudding* well ſeaſon'd with ſpice.

There's *ſauntering Samuel*, who's one of the few
Who whenever they ſaunter collect ſomething new.
There's *Mentor*, reſpectful attention may claim,
For he certainly has not diſgraced his name.
There's *Laurel* whoſe mind ſeem'd to dwell upon ſcalps,
There's *Angus* who ſung of a man on the Alps,
Who as well as ſome others,—*connections of his*,
When plenty ſurrounded moſt palates could pleaſe.

There's *Roland*, whoſe beauties 'twere vain to diſplay;
A *Druid*, who preach'd in a muſical way;
A *Candle*, whoſe luſtre grew brighter with age,
And outſhone all the lights of our luminous page:
A *Stranger*, on whom praiſe may well be beſtow'd,
For addreſſing *to ſickneſs* an exquiſite *ode*;
An *Erastus*, an *Edwin*, whoſe talents were bright,
Who will paſs for firſt-raters if rated aright.

There's *Maria*, of whom it may ſafely be ſaid,
She was read with inſtruction—and frequently read;
The Graces ſhe view'd not with envy or ſcorn,
But aim'd at ſubſtantials, and not to adorn.
A *Matilda*, whoſe merit I need not proclaim,
You'll remember her value on hearing her name.
An *Alpin*, who rates many others above,
In the art of *compoſing*, and ſcience of love:—
He was really inſpir'd, as appears from his lays,
By the paſſion of love, and a paſſion for praiſe.

There's *Aliquem*, whom you have ſome of you ſeen,
When he'd ſpun a few ſtanzas, derang'd his machine,
Which it does not appear he has rectify'd yet:—
A misfortune that calls for the deepeſt regret!

There's *Phoſphorus*, tho' but a dim looking ſpark
That ſeem'd calculated to ſhine in the dark,
Yet he puſh'd himſelf forward, was fierce in attack,
But diſlik'd oppoſition and turned his back.
An *Alfred*, of all our *young* Poets, the prince,
Who could tickle the fancy, the judgment convince.
A *Sylph* who appear'd in ſo novel a ſtyle,
He attracted attention and pleas'd for awhile:
Envy ſquinted 'tis true at the praiſe he acquir'd;
But never deny'd he was juſtly admir'd.
He flutter'd ſometime, in the ſunſhine of praiſe,
And ſunk when deprived of its heart-cheering rays.

Recollection, no doubt, might bring others forth,
Who now are forgotten—*a proof of their worth*.

Such days of profuſion will never more dawn,
And it gives me the heart-ache to think they are gone.

METORPROTIDE.

For the Evening Fire-side.

THE PEDLAR: NO. XIII.

"Wiſdom maketh the face to ſhine."

That the diſpoſition and temper of the mind have a ſtrong influence upon the features of the face, no perſon acquainted with the principles of Lavateriſm will pretend to deny. In the lineaments of the human countenance, we intepret the habitual diſpoſitions and governing paſſions of the ſoul, to a certainty almoſt infallible. Anger, rage, and jealouſy, with ſeveral others of this "numerous croud," evidently mark the viſage by their predominant ſway, and infringe deeply upon the prerogatives of beauty. The ancient philoſopher from whom I have taken my motto, appears to have had a knowledge of the principles of phyſiognomical ſcience, ſo far however as relates to the effects of certain habits of the mind upon the external appearance. To the influence of beauty and the amiable qualities of mind requiſite to ſtamp its impreſſion on the "human face divine," he was no ſtranger. He knew well *that* wiſdom, which produces in the heart ſweetneſs, mildneſs, humility, tenderneſs and good nature would have a more powerful efficacy to adorn the face with the engaging and attractive charms of beauty than all the pearl-powder, rouge, or other coſmetics of the perfumers ſhop could poſſibly beſtow. To the ladies therefore an attention to this laconic preſcription for making "the face ſhine," is of the utmoſt conſequence: ſince beauty, which is their peculiar prerogative, has ſuch magic influence over the affections of man. By a regular and invariable conformation to that "wiſdom" which the philoſophic ſage has ſpoken of, our ladies would indeed become "beautiful as the houries"—they would become ſoft and enchanting as the "Doves of Venus."

Q.

For the Evening Fire-side.

Pleaſed with the harmony, order and concord of nature, the mind feels a peculiar gratification in contemplating her movements, their cauſes and effects. The benevolence of the Deity, by the ſalutary effects of light, has ſpread organization, ſenſation, and intelligence over the ſurface of the earth; wherever this beneficent agent ſheds its influence, animated nature abounds. But whether all organiſed bodies are capable of ſenſation and thought, I cannot pretend to determine; but that ſome poſſeſs this faculty in a more eminent degree needs no diſputation. Step by ſtep do we ſee them proceed on the great graduated ſcale of beings from man to the loweſt atom of organized matter; and even here a mutual dependence, harmony or law exiſts between them. Man is a ſocial crea-

ture, deſtined by nature to mingle in ſociety; equally to contribute to, and participate of the common good. Thoſe genus of affection implanted in us by nature, which excite the compaſſion of the ſavage; and impart a ſympathy to his untutored ſoul, become more refined by cultivation; when filled with ſcience, and enlightened by philoſophy, his generous ſoul expands with raptures, and his gratitude is proportionate to his receipts. As his mind becomes more enlarged, he becomes more immured in the charms of ſociety, and his attachments become more numerous. He feels himſelf intereſted in the fate of his fellow-creatures, of brutes, nay, even of inanimate objects; "for ſomething man muſt love." The reciprocal participation of more pleaſing amuſement—ſome accompliſhment—ſome noble ſervice rendered—ſome truly brave or magnanimous action—affluence—or, wiſdom, all conſpire to excite an intereſt in the welfare of the poſſeſſion. A ſimilarity of ſentiment, ſo neceſſary in part to the mutual enjoyment of ſociety, is not always the motive of attachment.

The liberal minded man ſoars above the common prejudices of the vulgar; and reaſon and greatneſs are equally eſteemed though in oppoſite ſentiments. So far from condemning any who have dared to indulge in a different ſentiment from himſelf; that he feels a ſecret gratification, as in their conduct, merit and ſucceſs attend them. We even ſee enemies fired with indignation, and impatient of revenge; who have imbibed an almoſt implacable hatred; by ſome daring enterprize endeared to each other. Mutius, diſguiſed in the habit of an Etrurian peaſant, entered the camp of Porrenna, and through his miſguided vengeance, ſlew the Clerk inſtead of the intended King; for which error he committed his right hand to the flames without emotion. Struck with ſuch intrepidity and firmneſs, Porrenna, notwithſtanding the temerity of the act, reſcued him from harm, and liberated him with reward. But by whatever means attachments may be formed, their continuance will be according to the motive on which they were eſtabliſhed.

No friendship will abide the test,
That stands on sordid interest,
Or mean self-love erected,
Or such as may awhile subsist,
Between the Sot and Sensualist,
For vicious ends connected.*

The reaſon why many ſituations of our early life pleaſe us, is becauſe they are in themſelves incapable of delight or diſguſt, and only pleaſe us by recalling to our minds, ſome attachments of youth, built upon the ſincereſt motives. Thus, how endeared is the place where in friendly chat we have ſpent our youthful hours; or where enfolded in the arms of the fair charmer of our ſoul, and ſipping the nectar from her pouting lip; joyfully animated with her charms, or infatuated by her bewitching ſmiles—delighted with her ſweet eaſe and gaiety; or rivited to the ſpot by the penetrating glance of her eye. But bereft of the rounds of our former pleaſure, and theſe charm alas no more! Yet the very grove in which we walked under the ſpreading ſhade—the hillock on which we repoſed our weary limbs, as if by enchantment, arreſt all our ideas, and call to our recollection the image of former joys: we cannot quit the place without painful regret, and it ſcarce ſeems phrenzy on parting to take a formal adieu.

PROBE.

* Cowper.

For the Evening Fire-side.

Sketch of the Life of John Henderſon, A. B.

This wonderful genius was born near Limereck, in Ireland, 1757. It is ſaid of him that "his very infancy denoted ſomething great and extraordinary. He was born, as it were, a thinking being, and was never known to cry or expreſs any infantine peeviſhneſs. Thoſe years which are ſpent in weakneſs, ignorance, and the miſconceptions of the groſſeſt ſenſes, were marked by him with ſtrong intelligence. The queſtions he aſked, as ſoon as he was able to ſpeak, aſtoniſhed all who heard him, and ſhewed that he came into the world rather to teach others than be taught by them."

Self-knowledge enabled him wonderfully to penetrate into the characters and motives of others. The face—the voice and the air, diſcloſed the moving principle within. And it is much to be queſtioned whether he was ever deceived in the judgment he formed of others. He uſed to ſay that Phyſiognomy increaſed a man's knowledge but not his happineſs. Becauſe he firſt diſcovers the evil and afterwards the good. Not ſo with him who is unſkilled in the ſcience, for he firſt diſcovers the good which pleaſes him, and afterwards the evil which diſguſts him.

His knowledge of the ſciences was almoſt univerſal. The pious and the wiſe obſerved with delight his continued ſenſe of the Divine preſence: his implicit confidence in an overruling Providence, and his belief in an inviſible world. Whenever he mentioned the name of the Majeſty of Heaven, like the pious Boyle, and the reaſoning Clarke, he obſerved a ſolemn pauſe, as conſcious in whoſe preſence he ſtood. His dreſs appeared very whimſical. To faſhion he paid not the ſmalleſt deference. His outward garments were prepoſterouſly large. His ſhirt collar had only one button, and he never wore a ſtock or cravat, but ſometimes tied round his neck a black ribbon like a ſchool-boy.—His ſhoe-buckles were as ſmall as thoſe worn at the knees. To hair-dreſſing he was a great enemy, and could never endure the application of curling-irons, or the uſe of powder, which he called *white duſt*; he was ſeldom known to be in a paſſion. When at Oxford, he was one day debating with a fellow ſtudent, who not keeping his temper, threw a glaſs of wine in his face. Mr. Henderſon took out his handkerchief, wiped himſelf, and coolly ſaid, "*That, Sir, was a digreſſion; now for the argument.*" He died at Oxford in 1788, and was buried in St. George's Church, Kingſwood, near Briſtol; aged near thirty-one years.

E.

Selected for the Evening Fire-side.

"Some mute inglorious Milton here may rest."
GRAY.

Nothing has a greater tendency to elevate and affect the heart, than the reflection upon thoſe perſonages who have performed a diſtinguiſhed part on the theatre of life, whoſe actions were attended with important conſequences to the world around them, or whoſe writings have animated or inſtructed mankind. The thought that they are now no more, that their aſhes are mingled with thoſe of the meaneſt and moſt worthleſs, affords a ſubject of contemplation, which however melancholy, the mind, in a moment of penſiveneſs, may feel a ſecret ſort of delight to indulge.

When Xerxes, at the head of a numerous army ſaw all his troops ranged in order before him, he burſt into tears at the thought, that, in a ſhort time, they would be ſwept from the face of the earth, and be removed to give place to thoſe who would fill other armies and rank under other generals.

Something of what Xerxes felt, from the conſideration of thoſe who then were, ſhould ceaſe to be, it is equally natural to feel from the reflection, that all who have

formerly lived have ceased to live, and that nothing more remains than the memory of a very few who have left some memorial which keeps alive their names, and the fame with which those names are accompanied.

But serious as this reflection may be, it is not so deep as the thought, that even of those persons who were possessed of talents for distinguishing themselves in the world, for having their memories handed down from age to age, much the greater part is likely from hard necessity, or by some of the fatal accidents of life, have been excluded from the possibility of exerting themselves, or of being useful either to those who lived in the same age, or to posterity. Poverty in many, and "disastrous chance" in others, have chilled the "genial current of the soul," and numbers have been cut off by premature death in the midst of project and ambition. How many have there been in the ages that are past, how many may exist at this very moment, who, with all the talents fitted to shine in the world, to guide or to instruct it, may by some secret misfortune, have had their minds depressed, or the fire of their genius extinguished!

I have been led into these reflections by the perusal of a small volume of poems, which though possessed of very considerable merit, are, I believe, very little known. In the preface, the reader is told, that most of them are the production of Michael Bruce; that this Michael Bruce was born in an obscure village in Kinrossshire, and descended from parents remarkable for nothing but the innocence and simplicity of their lives: That in the twenty-first year of his age, he was seized with a consumption which put an end to his life.

Nothing, methinks, has more the power of awakening benevolence than the consideration of genius thus depressedly situated, suffered to pine in obscurity, and sometimes, as in the case of this unfortunate young man, to perish, it may be, for want of those comforts and conveniences which might have fostered a delicacy of frame or of mind, ill calculated to bear the hardships which poverty lays on both. A young man of genius, in a deep consumption at the age of twenty-one, feeling himself every moment going faster to decline, is an object sufficiently interesting; but how much must every feeling on the occasion be heightened, when we know that this person possessed so much dignity and composure of mind, as not only to contemplate his approaching fate, but even to write a poem on the subject, with which I shall conclude this essay.

Now spring returns; but not to me returns
The vernal joy my better years have known:
Dim in my breast life's dying taper burns,
And all the joys of life with health are flown.

Starting and shiv'ring in the unconstant wind,
Meagre and pale, the ghost of what I was,
Beneath some blasted tree I lie reclin'd,
And count the silent moments as they pass;

The wing'd moments, whose unstaying speed,
No art can stop, or in their course arrest;
Whose flight shall shortly count me with the dead,
And lay me down in peace with them that rest.

Oft morning dreams presage approaching fate;
And morning dreams as poets tell are true,
Led by pale ghosts, I enter death's dark gate,
And bid the realms of light and life adieu!

I hear the helpless wail, the shriek of woe;
I see the muddy wave, the dreary shore,
The sluggish streams that slowly creep below,
Which mortals visit and return no more.

Farewell, ye blooming fields! ye cheerful plains!
Enough for me the church-yard's lonely mound
When melancholy with still silence reigns,
And the rank grass waves o'er the cheerless ground.

Then let me wander at the close of eve,
When sleep sits dewy on the labourer's eyes,
The world and all its busy follies leave,
And talk with wisdom where my Daphna lies.

There let me sleep, forgotten in the clay,
When death shall shut these weary aching eyes,
Rest in the hopes of an eternal day,
Till the long night is gone and the last morn arise.

MINOR.

Selected for the Evening Fire-side.

THE COUNTRY SCHOOL.

Put to the door—the school's begun—
Stand in your places every one,—
Attend,———

* * * * * *

Read in the bible,—tell the place—
"*Job twentieth and the seventeenth verse*—
Caleb, begin. *And—he—shall—suck*—
Sir,—Moses got a pin and stuck——
Silence,—stop Caleb—Moses! here!
What's this complaint? *I didn't, Sir,*—
Hold up your hand,—What is't a pin?
O dear, I won't do so agin.
Read on. *The increase of his h--h--horse*—
Hold: H, O, U, S, E, spells house.
Sir, what's this word? for I can't tell it.
Can't you indeed! Why spell it. *Spell it.*
Begin yourself, I say. *Who, I?*
Yes, try. Sure you can spell it. *Try.*
Go, take your seats and primers, go,
You sha'n't abuse the bible so.

Will pray Sir Master mend my pen?
Say, Master, that's enough.—Here Ben,
Is this your copy? Can't you tell?
Set all your letters parallel.
I've done my sum—'tis just a groat—
Let's see it.—*Master, m' I g' out?*
Yes,—bring some wood in—What's that noise?
It isn't I, Sir, it's them boys.——

Come Billy, read—What's that? *That's A—*
Sir, Jim has snatch'd my rule away——
Return it, James.—Here, rule with this—
Billy, read on.—*That's crooked S.*
Read in the spelling-book—Begin—
The boys are out—Then call them in—
My nose bleeds, mayn't I get some ice,
And hold it in my breeches?—Yes.
John, keep your seat. *My sum is more*—
Then do't again—Divide by four,
By twelve, and twenty—Mind the rule.
Now speak, Manassah, and spell tool.
I can't—Well try—*T, W, L.*
Not wash'd your hands yet, booby, ha!
You had your orders yesterday.
Give me the ferrule, hold your hand.
Oh! Oh! There,—mind my next command.

The grammar read. Tell where the place is.
C sounds like K in cat and cases.
My book is torn. The next.—*Here not*—
E final makes it long—say note.
What are the stops and marks, Susannah?
Small points, Sir——And how many, Hannah?
Four, Sir. How many, George! You look:
Here's more than fifty in my book.
How's this? Just come, Sam? *Why I've been*—
Who knocks? *I don't know, Sir* Come in.
"Your most obedient, Sir?" And yours.
Sit down, Sir. Sam, put to the doors.
What do you bring to tell that's new!
"Nothing, that's either strange or true.
"What a prodigious school! I'm sure
"You've got a hundred here, or more.
"A word, Sir, if you please." I will—
You girls, till I come in be still.

"Come, we can dance to night—so you
"Dismiss your brain distracting crew,
"And come—For all the girls are there.
"We'll have a fiddle and a player."
Well, mind and have the sleigh-bells sent,
I'll soon dismiss my regiment.

Silence! The second class must read.
As quick as possible—proceed.
Not found your book yet? Stand—be fix'd—
The next read, stop—the next—the next.
You need not read again, 'tis well.
Come Tom and Dick, chuse sides to spell.
Will this word do? Yes, Tom spell dunce.
Sit still there all you little ones.
I've got a word, Well, name it. *Gizzard.*
You spell it Sampson—*G, I, Z.*
Spell conscience, Jack. *K, O, N,*
S, H, U, N, T, S—Well done!
Put out the next—*mine is folks.*
Tim, spell it—*P, H, O, U, X.*
O shoocking! Have you all try'd? *No.*
Say Master, but no matter, go—
Lay by your books----and you, Josiah,
Help Jed to make the morning fire.

[*New-Hampshire Spy.*]

Selected for the Evening Fire-side.

AGRICULTURAL.

On the courſe of crops adapted to the climate and circumſtances of New-Jerſey.

It is but of late that a ſpirit of inquiry has ariſen in this country, with reſpect to the extenſive ſcience of Agriculture. It is ſince the Revolution that we have begun to pay a proper attention to it; ſo that of late the old ſyſtems have been laid down; and with the more correct ideas that have ſucceeded on the principles of Agriculture, the practice of it has become conſiderably improved. But many points remain to be elucidated relative to our own climate and peculiar ſituation, as well as that much of that information on the practice of Agriculture which is common to all climates and countries, remains to be diffuſed and underſtood among us. I therefore recommend to the attention of the ingenious and inquiring husbandman, to read the beſt modern productions upon this ſubject, if he has not yet read them, as much information may very probably be thence collected which immediately concerns his every day practice. By comparing the light to be obtained from the very ſpirited and luminous writings of Young, Anderſon, Bordley, &c. with the beſt practices within the circles of his own neighbourhood and acquaintance, he will ſoon become poſſeſſed of a knowledge that will, with the bleſſing of Divine Providence, make the profeſſion of Agriculture, what it ever ought to be, profitable, as well as pleaſant.— It is by a judicious compariſon of the husbandry at home and abroad, that the American agriculture ſucceeds.

One of the firſt inquiries that ought to engage our attention is *the courſe of crops.* Many farmers have none but irregular and unſyſtematic ones—all a matter of accident, or fancy, or temporary accommodation.— By this means their land becomes reduced, and men ſtarve upon the beſt and largeſt landed eſtates. Whereas proper ſkill and attention to this and other important points would have reverſed the medal. Nothing is more certain than that a proper courſe of crops with ſyſtematic husbandry, not only preſerves the fertility of the ſoil, but that by it farms become eſſentially improved, nay renovated; and the farmer grows wealthy by the amelioration of his land, as well as by the enlarged products of it under the hand of cultivation. This is the point then: What is the courſe of crops, that by the happy diſpoſition which the nature of things requires, unites theſe great objects—the fertilization of the farm, with the immediate increaſe of the farmer's income. This is indeed an inquiry in which agricultural men are deeply intereſted; and indeed much more ſo than in the party conteſts of the day, which yet in their proper place, may claim perhaps not the leaſt of their attention.

The moſt common courſe of crops that I have obſerved, and the worſt, next to no courſe at all, is *Indian corn, rye* ſown among it, then *paſture* for a number of years.— Weeds and briars, and blue graſs ſucceed, and impoveriſhment enſues. Some better this abſurd ſyſtem, by ſowing clower upon their rye. But this, though better, is not what it ſhould be.

Another courſe much practiſed by the better claſs of farmers in Weſt-Jerſey, is, 1. Indian Corn. 2. Oats. 3. Wheat.— 4. Clover two or three years, and 5. Paſture. The wheat is manured for with compoſt. To this courſe divers objections may be urged; as that of three exhauſting crops in ſucceſſion; the ground becomes fouled by the paſture ſucceeding the clover, as well as is comparatively unproductive in that ſtate;—and to all theſe muſt be added, the embarraſſment of compoſting for wheat in ſo buſy and critical a ſeaſon of the year. Moreover, the clover is ſown upon wheat, a ſlovenly practice, compared with harrowing it in with ſpring grain.

Another courſe not attended by all theſe objections, is that practiſed by ſome, which is however, not without ſome of them, namely; 1. Indian Corn, manured for highly with compoſt. 2. Barley, or Oats. 3. Wheat. 4 Clover. 5. Paſture. The manuring in the ſpring has ſome advantage, but three exhauſting crops in ſucceſſion are certainly faulty, and the clover, in this country the moſt important crop of all, comes laſt in for a ſhare of the manuring, though well deſerving, and capable of the firſt proportion. The land alſo is fouled by paſturing after two years of clover.

True—very fine Indian corn is thus produced, as well as handſome barley; but the wheat and clover ſuffer.

It is undoubtedly right to pay proper attention to ſo important a crop as Indian corn.—This they have not in England, and this circumſtance forms the ſtriking out-line of difference between our management and theirs. In lieu of this crop, they have various ſubſtitutes, as beans, pease, potatoes, cabbages, carrots, but above all, turnips. This laſt is a cleanſing crop, and comes in place of fallowing, which is leſs profitable, and fits the ſoil equally well for ſpring grain, with clover ſeed. No clover, if not upon new ground, can be good that has not had a cleanſing crop to prepare for it. Barley, for very obvious reaſons, ſuits it beſt; and next oats, to put it in with; but on turnips, or ſome hoed crop, they depend in England, to prepare for clover, as well as barley. The reaſon barley ſucceeds ſo ill with us, is, it is ſown too frequently on foul land; the weeds ſpring up and choak it. Indian corn is a crop that beſt takes a heavy covering of well rotted manure. Wheat requires a rich ſoil, and in fine tilth; but too high manuring does not do with wheat; whereas, for Indian corn, in manuring, there cannot well be an exceſs. Sixty and ſeventy buſhels may, and ſometimes are, with eaſe, gotten of this grain per acre, here, as well as in the new grounds of the weſtern country.

From theſe premiſes, therefore, let us derive our concluſions. The courſe they indicate is, 1. Indian corn, manured for highly. 2. Barley, or oats. 3. Clover, mown or fed two ſeaſons. 4 Wheat, with ſuch variation in the courſe as circumſtances may admit. Now, what objection to this courſe? By Indian corn I mean a hoed crop; that is, a cleanſing crop, which fits the land for the enſuing cultivation. In lieu of it therefore, any other well hoed crop may be ſubſtituted as beſt ſuits the views of the cultivator; as potatoes, carrots, cabbages, &c. Corn is fallowed with ſome by wheat; but this is embarraſſing; and beſides, the ground is not in ſufficiently fine tilth for wheat. It is with no inconvenience whatever followed by ſpring grain and clover. The corn hills and ſtalks are by ſpring, out of the way, and the ground breaks up rich and fine for barley or oats. The clover is put in with eaſe and certainty; and for the barley crop and the clover, the ſoil is in fine heart.

But in this ſyſtem another material point is, that clean clover, one or two ſeaſons mowed or fed, is uniformly followed by wheat with the beſt ſucceſs, and with only one ploughing after the ſecond crop of clover is off, and without embarraſſment or delay. This is from univerſal experience in England and the Netherlands, countries pre-eminent for their agriculture, found to be the beſt method of getting wheat, and has been practiſed with ſucceſs in this country. It reſults from the fertilizing and cleanſing effects of clover. The roots rot, and the traſh is prevented from ſeeding by being conſtantly mown off.

The whole courſe indeed, here recommended, is the very ſame adopted in England by the beſt practitioners there, with the exception only of our crops of Indian corn, ſubſtituted here, for theirs, ſo celebrated, of turnips; and it will be found by us, as it has been by them, to unite the great objects of improving the ſoil, and of enlarging the immediate products of it, as the ingenius husbandman's reward.

The principal objection to this method of putting in the wheat, will probably ariſe from the farmer's unwillingneſs to part with his clover, after mowing it but one or two ſeaſons. But to mow it longer fouls the land, as the clover is wearing out, and the way to have plenty of clover is to ſow it regularly, and in every cultivated field, in ſucceſſion. The importance of clover is indeed immenſe. It may be ſaid to be the moving wheel of the whole agricultural machine. It is of more conſequence to the country, than all the patent inventions in it put together.

In this courſe, which is indeed nearly the reverſe of the common, as to the order, wheat will very advantageouſly be followed by oats for fall paſture, by ploughing in the ſtubble and harrowing the oats in.—The paſture is very conſiderable as well as late, and the ground breaks up in fine order for corn in the ſpring. Otherwiſe buckwheat may occaſionally be had. And what I wiſh to call the attention of our farmers to, is that very conſiderable crops of turnips may be had by ſowing them when the corn is laſt dreſſed, as topping or cutting off the corn lays them open to the ſun in the ſeaſon of their growth. This is very important for ſuch farmers as keep flocks of ſheep, or have beaſts to fat in the field or ſtall.

Very conſiderable uſe will reſult in moſt ſoils from the uſe of gypſum or plaſter upon clover. And in the whole proceſs, the ſtricteſt attention ſhould be paid in the two capital articles of cleaning and manures.

If the cultivator wiſhes another hoed crop than Indian corn, carrots and cabbages will be found extremely profitable; the former for light, the other for heavier or clay ſoils. Potatoes alſo, both the common and ſweet, are in many inſtances more profitable than Indian corn.

It is to be hoped that American farmers may not unthinkingly attach themſelves to practices in huſbandry, an art confeſſedly ſo ſuſceptible of improvement in this country, merely becauſe their fathers and neighbours have been in them, while reaſon and intereſt combine to invite them to the adoption of improvements.

A NEW-JERSEY FARMER.

[*Tren. Fed.*]

Hints to virtuous but incautious Youth.

Public decency is the friend of public felicity. Who violates the one, muſt eſſentially injure the other, and become unworthy the eſteem of ſociety. Hence the wiſdom of the apoſtolic direction, "abſtain from all appearance of evil."

Let not youth imagine, that there is a line which divides innocence from guilt, to which we may ſafely approach, provided we ſtep not over it. Who ſports upon the edge of a precipice, may fall from it, in one moment of giddineſs, and be irretrievably loſt. The moth that plays around the flame, and is burnt, is the emblem of preſumptuous and unwary youth.

He, who can diſcern the lovelineſs of beauty, cannot eaſily aſſociate, even for a moment, with deformity and vice.

The youth whoſe heart is pure, and whoſe manners are yet unſullied, will ſtart with horror at the mere ſhadow of guilt.

Great is he, who, ſurrounded with unexpected temptations, reſiſts the allurements of guilty pleaſures, and comes off victorious. But greater is he, who, apprehenſive of human frailty, ſedulouſly avoids the combat, and ſeeks for ſafety in flight. He obeys that heavenly voice, which has repeatedly inſtructed us, "not to enter into temptation."

Familiarity has a power which few ſuſpect, but againſt which the truly virtuous ſhould guard. What is, at firſt, diſguſting to the taſte, by degrees, may become palatable. Even a fondneſs for it will intervene; and habit, at laſt, will render it indiſpenſable.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 2.

The following meſſage from the executive of the United States, was preſented to both houſes of Congreſs, this day at noon, by the Preſident's private ſecretary, Mr. Coles:

To the Senate and Houſe of Repreſentatives of the United States of America, in Congreſs aſſembled.

It would have given me, fellow-citizens, great ſatisfaction to announce, in the moment of your meeting, that the difficulties in our foreign relations, exiſting at the time of your laſt ſeparation, had been amicably and juſtly terminated. I loſt no time in taking thoſe meaſures which were moſt likely to bring them to ſuch a termination, by ſpecial miſſions, charged with ſuch powers and inſtructions, as in the event of failure, could leave no imputation on either our moderation or forbearance. The delays which have taken ſince place in our negociations with the Britiſh government, appear to have proceeded from cauſes which do not forbid the expectation that, during the courſe of the ſeſſion, I may be enabled to lay before you their final iſſiue. What will be that of the negociations for ſettling our differences with Spain, nothing which had taken place at the date of the laſt diſpatches, enables us to pronounce. On the weſtern ſide of the Miſſiſſippi, ſhe advanced in conſiderable force, and took poſt at the ſettlement of Bayou Pierre, on the Red river. This village was originally ſettled by France, was held by her as long as ſhe held Louiſiana, and was delivered to Spain only as a part of Louiſiana; being ſmall, inſulated, and diſtant, it was not obſerved, at the moment of re-delivery to France and the United States, that ſhe continued a guard of half a dozen men, which had been ſtationed there. A propoſition, however, having been lately made, by our commander in chief, to aſſume the Sabine river as a temporary line of ſeparation between the troops of the two nations, until the iſſue of our negociations ſhall be known, this has been referred, by the Spaniſh commandant, to his ſuperior, and in the mean time he has withdrawn his force to the weſtern ſide of the Sabine river. The correſpondence on this ſubject, now communicated, will exhibit more particularly the preſent ſtate of things in that quarter.

The nature of that country requires, indiſpenſably, that an unuſual proportion of the force employed there ſhould be cavalry, or mounted infantry. In order, therefore, that the commanding officer might be enabled to act with effect, I had authoriſed him to call on the governors of Orleans and Miſſiſſippi, for a corps of five hundred volunteer cavalry. The temporary arrangement he has propoſed may perhaps render this unneceſſary. But I inform you with great pleaſure of the promptitude with which the inhabitants of thoſe territories have tendered their ſervices in defence of their country. It has done honour to themſelves, entitled them to the confidence of their fellow-citizens in every part of the union, and muſt ſtrengthen the general determination to protect them efficaciouſly under all circumſtances which may occur.

Having received information that in another part of the United States, a great number of private individuals were combining together, arming and organising themselves contrary to law, to carry on a military expedition against the territories of Spain, I thought it necessary by proclamation, as well as by special orders, to take measures for preventing and suppressing this enterprize, for seizing the vessels, arms and other means provided for it, and for arresting and bringing to justice its authors and abettors. It was due to that good faith which ought ever to be the rule of action in public, as well as private transactions, it was due to good order, and regular government, that, while the public force was acting strictly on the defensive, and merely to protect our citizens from aggression, the criminal attempts of private individuals to decide for their country the question of peace or war, by commencing active and unauthorised hostilities should be promptly and efficaciously suppressed.

Whether it will be necessary to enlarge our regular force, will depend on the result of our negociations with Spain—but as it is uncertain when that result will be known, the provisional measures requisite for that, and to meet any pressure intervening in that quarter, will be a subject for your early consideration.

The possession of both banks of the Mississippi, reducing to a single point the defence of that river, its waters, and the country adjacent, it becomes highly necessary to provide for that point, a more adequate security. Some position above its mouth, commanding the passage of the river, should be rendered sufficiently strong to cover the armed vessels which may be stationed there for defence, and, in conjunction with them, to present an insuperable obstacle to any force, attempting to pass. The approaches to the city of New-Orleans, from the eastern quarter also, will require to be examined, and more effectually guarded. For the internal support of the country, the encouragement of a strong settlement on the western side of the Mississippi, within reach of New Orleans, will be worthy the consideration of the legislature.

The gun boats, authorised by an act of the last session, are so advanced that they will be ready for service in the ensuing spring; circumstances permitted us to allow the time necessary for their more solid construction. As a much larger number will still be wanting to place our sea-port towns and waters in that state of defence to which we are competent and they entitled, a similar appropriation for a further provision of them, is recommended for the ensuing year.

A further appropriation will also be necessary for repairing fortifications already established, and the erection of such other works as may have real effect in obstructing the approach of an enemy to our sea-port towns, or their remaining before them.

In a country whose constitution is derived from the will of the people, directly expressed by their free suffrages, where the principal executive functionaries, and those of the legislature, are renewed by them at short periods; where, under the character of jurors, they exercise in person the greatest portion of the judiciary powers, where the laws are consequently so formed and administered, as to bear with equal weight and favour on all, restraining no man in the pursuits of honest industry, and securing to every one the property which that acquires, it would not be supposed that any safeguards could be needed against insurrection, or enterprize, on the public peace or authority. The laws, however, aware that these should not be trusted to moral restraints only, have wisely provided punishment for these crimes when committed: but, would it not be salutary to give, also, the means of preventing their commission? Where an enterprize is meditated, by private individuals, against a foreign nation, in amity with the United States, powers of prevention to a certain extent are given by the laws. Would they not be as reasonable, and useful, where the enterprize preparing is against the United States? While adverting to this branch of law, it is proper to observe, that in enterprises meditated against foreign nations, the ordinary process of binding to the observance of the peace and good behaviour, could it be extended to acts to be done out of the jurisdiction of the United States, would be effectual in some cases where the offender is able to keep out of sight every indication of his purpose, which could draw on him the exercise of the powers now given by law.

The states on the coast of Barbary seem generally disposed at present to respect our peace and friendship. With Tunis alone, some uncertainty remains. Persuaded that it is our interest to maintain our peace with them on equal terms, or not at all, I propose to send in due time, a reinforcement into the Mediterranean, unless previous information shall shew it to be unnecessary.

We continue to receive proofs of the growing attachment of our Indian neighbours, and of their disposition to place all their interests under the patronage of the United States. These dispositions are inspired by their confidence in our justice, and in the sincere concern we feel for their welfare. And as long as we discharge these high and honourable functions, with the integrity and good faith which alone can entitle us to their continuance, we may expect to reap the just reward in their peace and friendship.

The expedition of Messrs. Lewis and Clarke, for exploring the river Missouri, and the best communication from that to the Pacific ocean, has had all the success which could have been expected. They have traced the Missouri nearly to its source, descended the Columbia to the Pacific ocean, ascertained with accuracy the geography of that interesting communication across our continent, learnt the character of the country, of its commerce and inhabitants, and it is but justice to say, that Messrs. Lewis and Clarke, and their brave companions, have, by this arduous service, deserved well of their country.

The attempt to explore the Red river, under the direction of Mr Freeman, though conducted with a zeal and prudence meriting entire approbation, has not been equally successful. After proceeding up it about six hundred miles, nearly as far as the French settlements had extended, while the country was in their possession, our geographers were obliged to return, without compleating their work.

Very useful additions have also been made to our knowledge of the Mississippi, by lieut Pike, who has ascended it to its source, and whose journal and map, giving the details of his journey, will shortly be ready for communication to both houses of congress. Those of Messrs. Lewis, Clarke, and Freeman, will require further time to be digested and prepared. These important surveys, in addition to those before possessed, furnish materials for commencing an accurate map of the Mississippi and its western waters. Some principal rivers, however, remain still to be explored, towards which the authorisation of congress, by moderate appropriations, will be requisite.

I congratulate you, fellow citizens, on the approach of the period at which you may interpose your authority, constitutionally, to withdraw the citizens of the United States from all further participation in those violations of human rights, which have been so long continued on the unoffending inhabitants of Africa, and which the morality, the reputation, and the best

intereſts of our country have long been eager to proſcribe; although no law you may paſs can take prohibitory effect till the firſt day of the year one thouſand eight hundred and eight, yet the intervening period is not too long to prevent, by timely notice, expeditions which cannot be completed before that day.

The receipts at the treaſury, during the year ending on the 30th day of September laſt, have amounted to near fifteen millions of dollars, which have enabled us, after meeting the current demands, to pay two millions ſeven hundred thouſand dollars of the American claims, in part of the price of Louiſiana; to pay, of the funded debt, upwards of three millions of principal, and nearly four of intereſt, and, in addition, to reimburſe, in the courſe of the preſent month, nearly two millions of five and an half per cent. ſtock. Theſe payments and reimburſements of the funded debt, with thoſe which had been made in the four years and an half preceding, will, at the cloſe of the preſent year, have extinguiſhed upwards of twenty-three millions of principal.

The duties compoſing the Mediterranean fund will ceaſe by law, at the end of the preſent ſeſſion. Conſidering, however, that they are levied chiefly on luxuries, and that we have an impoſt on ſalt, a neceſſary of life, the free uſe of which otherwiſe is ſo important, I recommend to your conſideration, the ſuppreſſion of the duties on ſalt, and the continuation of the Mediterranean fund, inſtead thereof, for a ſhort time; after which, that alſo will become unneceſſary for any purpoſe now within contemplation.

When both of theſe branches of revenue ſhall in this way be relinquiſhed, there will ſtill, ere long, be an accumulation of monies in the treaſury, beyond the inſtalments of public debt, which we are permitted by contract to pay. They cannot then, without a modification, aſſented to by the public creditors, be applied to the extinguiſhment of this debt and the complete liberation of our revenue, the moſt deſirable of all objects. Nor, if our peace continues, will they be wanting for any other exiſting purpoſe. The queſtion therefore, now comes forward, to what other objects ſhall theſe ſurpluſſes be appropriated, and the whole ſurplus of impoſt after the entire diſcharge of the public debt, and during thoſe intervals when the purpoſes of war ſhall not call for them? ſhall we ſuppreſs the impoſt, and give that advantage to foreign over domeſtic manufactures? on a few articles of more general and neceſſary uſe, the ſuppreſſion, in due ſeaſon, will doubtleſs be right, but the great maſs of the articles on which impoſt is paid are foreign luxuries, purchaſed by thoſe only who are rich enough to afford themſelves the uſe of them. Their patriotiſm would certainly prefer its continuance and application to the great purpoſes of the public education, roads, rivers, canals, and ſuch other objects of public improvement, as it may be thought proper to add to the conſtitutional enumeration of federal powers. By theſe operations, new channels of communication will be opened between the ſtates; the lines of ſeparation will diſappear; their intereſt will be identified, and their union cemented by new and indiſſoluble ties.—Education is here placed among the articles of public care; not that it would be propoſed to take its ordinary branches out of the hands of private enterprize, which manages ſo much better all the concerns to which it is equal: but a public inſtitution can alone ſupply thoſe ſciences which, though rarely called for, are yet neceſſary to complete the circle, all the parts of which contribute to the improvement of the country, and ſome of them to its preſervation. The ſubject is now propoſed for the conſideration of Congreſs, becauſe, if approved, by the time the ſtate legiſlatures ſhall have deliberated on this extenſion of the federal truſts, and the laws ſhall be paſſed, and other arrangements made for their execution, the neceſſary funds will be on hand, and without employment. I ſuppoſe an amendment of the conſtitution, by conſent of the ſtates, neceſſary, becauſe the objects now recommended are not among thoſe enumerated in the conſtitution, and to which it permits the public monies to be applied.

The preſent conſideration of a national eſtabliſhment, for education particularly, is rendered proper by this circumſtance alſo, that, if Congreſs, approving the propoſition, ſhall yet think it more eligible to found it on a donation of lands, they have it now in their power to endow it with thoſe which will be among the earlieſt to produce the neceſſary income. This foundation would have the advantage of being independent on war, which may ſuſpend other improvements, by requiring for its own purpoſes, the reſources deſtined for them.

This, fellow citizens, is the ſtate of the public intereſts, at the preſent moment, and according to the information now poſſeſſed. But ſuch is the ſituation of the nations of Europe, and ſuch too the predicament in which we ſtand with ſome of them, that we cannot rely with certainty on the preſent aſpect of our affairs, that may change from moment to moment, during the courſe of your ſeſſion, or after you ſhall have ſeparated. Our duty is therefore to act upon things as they are, and to make a reaſonable proviſion for whatever they may be.—Were armies to be raiſed whenever a ſpeck of war is viſible in our horizon, we never ſhould have been without them. Our reſources would have been exhauſted on dangers which have never happened, inſtead of being reſerved for what is really to take place. A ſteady, perhaps a quickened pace, in preparations for the defence of our ſea-port towns and waters, an early ſettlement of the moſt expoſed and vulnerable parts of our country, a militia ſo organiſed that its effective portions can be called to any point in the union, or volunteers, inſtead of them, to ſerve a ſufficient time, are means which may always be ready, yet never preying on our reſources until actually called into uſe. They will maintain the public intereſts, while a more permanent force ſhall be in a courſe of preparation. But much will depend on the promptitude with which theſe means can be brought into activity. If war be forced upon us, in ſpite of our long and vain appeals to the juſtice of nations, rapid and vigorous movements, in its outſet, will go far towards ſecuring us in its courſe and iſſue, and throwing its burthens on thoſe who render neceſſary the reſort from reaſon to force.

The reſult of our negociations, or ſuch incidents in their courſe as may enable us to infer their probable iſſue, ſuch further movements alſo, on our weſtern frontier, as may ſhew whether war is to be preſſed there, while negociation is protracted elſewhere, ſhall be communicated to you from time to time, as they become known to me, with whatever other information I poſſeſs or may receive, which may aid your deliberations on the great national intereſts committed to your charge.

TH: JEFFERSON.

December 2, 1806.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

ROMEO came to hand too late for inſertion this week.

PUBLISHED BY JOSEPH RAKESTRAW,
NO. 84, NORTH FRONT-STREET.

Where Subscriptions and Communications, (post paid) *will be received.*